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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 8571**
Franz SIEBERER : Attorney Docket No. 2004_0129A
Serial No.10/773,275 : Group Art Unit 3679
Filed February 9, 2004 : Examiner Ernesto Garcia
TRANSPORT SECURING ARRANGEMENT : **Mail Stop: APPEAL BRIEF-PATENTS**

Noted
DPS
2/2/07

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.41, Appellant respectfully submits this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated November 2, 2006. Entry of this Reply Brief is respectfully requested.

Initially, regarding the Examiner's Answer dated November 2, 2006, Appellant notes that a new grounds of rejection was contained therein for claim 6, which requires the personal approval of a Technology Center Director. The Examiner's Answer dated November 2, 2006, however, did not include the signature of the Technology Center Director (i.e., Donald T. Hajec). In addition, in a supplemental communication from the PTO dated December 19, 2006, although the Examiner indicates therein that the Technology Center Director has signed the Examiner's Answer, the copy of the signature page provided therewith once again does not include the signature of Technology Center Director (i.e., Donald T. Hajec).

Accordingly, as the Technology Center Director has not personally approved the new ground of rejection for claim 6 in the Examiner's Answer, Appellant submits that such a rejection is improper.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975